

Proclamation

Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day in Morris County October, 6, 2016

WHEREAS, New Jersey, Morris County – which is a Stigma Free County - and the entire nation are in the midst of a life threatening opiate abuse epidemic, and

WHEREAS, the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey has designated October 6, 2016 as Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day, and

WHEREAS, this is an initiative with a dual purpose: to educate families of the addictive qualities of opioid pain medicines and their link to heroin abuse rates, and outreach to physicians with safer prescribing messages found in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for prescribing opiates, which include considering other therapies, setting realistic treatment goals with patients and discussing with patients the pros and cons of opioids, and

WHEREAS, the statewide single-day initiative will mobilize the prevention and treatment communities, community leaders, and concerned citizens to raise awareness of the potential for dependency on prescribed pain medicine and its link heroin abuse, and

WHEREAS, teams of volunteers across Morris County will visit physician and dental offices in their communities on Oct. 6, equipped with information for each prescriber designed to raise awareness of the opioid abuse epidemic facing New Jersey and the steps they can take to help stem the epidemic, and

WHEREAS, the Morris County Board of Freeholders, in conjunction with the Prosecutor's Office, Department of Human Services, the Morris County Task Force on Opiates, and numerous non-profit agencies and organizations in the county, supports initiatives designed to raise awareness about opiate abuse in New Jersey and take steps to prevent addiction;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kathryn A. DeFillippo, Director of the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders, proclaim October 6, 2016, as Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day in Morris County and call upon our political leaders, law enforcement, community leaders, the medical community, and our residents to raise awareness of this issue which is devastating so many individuals and families in our county, state and nation.